

## Message Text

MRN: 1973JAKART010911 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX  
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE  
ADP000  
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12  
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-07 L-03 INR-10 RSC-01 DRC-01

EUR-25 H-03 /080 W  
----- 089736

R 130536Z SEP 73  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8721  
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 10911

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

IN ANY CASE, IN THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE  
THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS  
OF THE ORIGINAL CLASS C PRISONERS ARE BEING  
HELD, OR THAT THE JUNE 30 FIGURES FOR CLASS  
A AND B AND C PRISONERS ARE INCORRECT, WE ARE  
INCLINED TO ACCEPT JUNE 30 FIGURES AT FACE VALUE  
AS ROUGH APPROXIMATIONS, RATHER THAN AMNESTY  
FIGURE OF 55,000. WE ALSO ARE BEARING IN  
MIND THAT BECAUSE OF WIDE DISPERSAL OF PRISONERS, GOI  
ITSELF MAY LACK COMPLETELY ACCURATE DATA ON TOTAL.

4. ALTHOUGH TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS CITED  
IN DEPARTMENT'S JANUARY 1972 REPORT MUST BE  
REVISED UPWARD IN LIGHT OF JUNE 30 FIGURES,  
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH  
EMBASSY HAS REPORTED INDICATING PROGRESS IN DEALING  
WITH PRISONER PROBLEM. THESE INCLUDE GENERAL  
SUMITRO'S STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR IN JUNE  
(REF B) THAT CLASS B PRISONERS ARE NO LONGER  
CONSIDERED INCORRIGIBLE AND COULD BE RELEASED  
IF CHANGE OF ATTITUDE MERITS THIS, AND HIS  
STATEMENT THAT TRIAL OF CLASS A PRISONERS WILL  
BE ACCELERATED TO 200 A YEAR. SUMITRO'S  
STATEMENTS SEEM TO BE SUPPORTED IN JUNE 30  
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FIGURES WHICH SHOW REDUCTION OF TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS BETWEEN DECEMBER 1972 AND JUNE 30, 1973 FROM 38,151 TO 36,221 OR APPROXIMATELY 6 PCT (SEE PARA 1 ABOVE). (REDUCTIONS IN VARIOUS CLASSES ARE CLASS A, 290; CLASS B 720; CLASS X 920.)

5. ON OTHER HAND, COMMENTS TO EMBOFF BY FATHER RUFFING ABOUT DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS ON BURU ISLAND (REF E), AND ALI SAID'S COMMENTS TO EMBOFF (REF G) ABOUT UNREGENERATE ATTITUDE OF BURU ISLAND PRISONERS (WHICH CONFLICTED WITH HIS EARLIER MORE HOPEFUL COMMENTS ABOUT BURU PRISONERS) SUGGESTS LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD REHABILITATION AND RELEASE OF CLASS B PRISONERS ON BURU, AT LEAST. WE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN TOLD BY GENERAL SUHUD OF HANKAM THAT GENERAL SUMITRO PLANS VISIT TO BURU ISLAND IN MID-SEPTEMBER. REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF VISIT COMES OFF AND WHAT IT MAY PRODUCE.

6. AUGUST 5 RIOTS IN BANDUNG ARE ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH COULD DISCOURAGE ACCELERATED RELEASE OF B PRISONERS. ALI SAID TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 23 THAT BANDUNG INCIDENT WOULD NOT INFLUENCE PRISONER POLICY (REF G), AND GENERAL SUTOPO JUWONO (BAKIN CHIEF) MADE SAME POINT TO AMBASSADOR ON SEPTEMBER 7. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, SUTOPO SAID SOME RELEASED CATEGORY C PRISONERS WERE A FACTOR IN BANDUNG RIOTS. COMBINED WITH (A) FAIRLY PREVALENT BELIEF AMONG MILITARY AND SECURITY CIRCLES THAT LEFTISTS (INCLUDING PKI) WERE INVOLVED IN EXPLOITING, IF NOT INITIATING, BANDUNG INCIDENT; AND (B) INCREASED ANXIETIES OVER INTERNAL SECURITY IN WAKE OF BANDUNG RIOTS, THIS COULD WEIGH AGAINST MORE LIBERAL PRISONER POLICY, AT LEAST IN NEAR FUTURE.

7. AS REPORTED IN REFS D AND F, GERMAN, UK, DUTCH AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES HAVE ALL RECEIVED INQUIRIES FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS THIS YEAR CONCERNING PRISONER PROBLEM, AND  
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ALL BUT AUSTRALIANS HAVE APPROACHED GOI ON SUBJECT. HOWEVER, UK, DUTCH AND AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADORS RESPONDED WITHOUT MUCH ENTHUSIASM TO POSSIBILITY RAISED BY AMBASSADOR GALBRAITH AT RECENT LUNCHEON OF JOINT OR CONCERTED APPROACH TO GOI ENCOURAGING BETTER TREATMENT AND MORE RAPID TRIAL OF PRISONERS (REF F).

EMBASSY REMAINS CONCERNED THAT IF GOI DOES NOT  
MAKE MORE RAPID PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH PRISONER  
PROBLEM IN THE FUTURE, ISSUE COULD BECOME IRRITANT  
IN US/INDONESIAN RELATION IN VIEW OF PUBLIC AND  
CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN PROBLEM. WE WILL  
THEREFORE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW SITUATION CLOSELY  
TO DETERMINE WHETHER GOI ASSURANCES OF MORE  
RAPID RESOLUTION OF CASES OF CLASS A AND B  
PRISONERS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT. WE WILL ALSO  
(AS WILL EMBASSIES MENTIONED ABOVE) CONTINUE TO  
SHOW INTEREST IN FATE OF THESE PRISONERS  
BY PERIODICALLY SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION  
ABOUT THEM.  
GALBRAITH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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